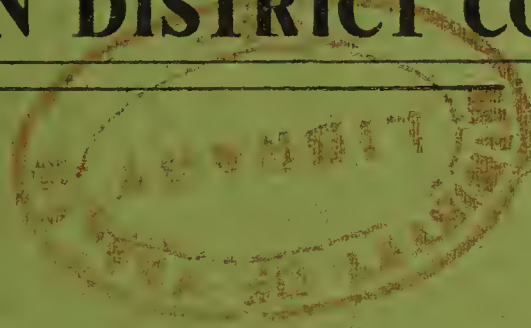


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**ORRELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**FOR THE YEAR 1943.**

**KENNETH FRASER, M.O.H.**



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Presented to the District Council

March 6th, 1945

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# URBAN DISTRICT OF ORRELL

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## Summary of the Annual Report

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1943.

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### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :

*Medical Officer of Health* : KENNETH FRASER (part-time). Salary £150  
*Sanitary Inspector* : J. F. SMITHIE (part-time). Salary £230

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### STATISTICS OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,617
Population—Census 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,949
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1943	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,266
Number of Inhabited Houses :—								
(a) Census 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,682
(b) End of 1943, according to Rate Books	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,593
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£32,970
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£127

*Social Conditions.*—Orrell is essentially an agricultural area. The majority of the houses are working class dwellings, built bordering on farm lands. The coal and cotton industries are the chief sources of employment. They are situated outside the area.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

					<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Live Births	{	Legitimate ..	..	150	..	70	.. 80
		Illegitimate..	..	4	..	1	.. 3
Total		..	..	..	154	..	71 .. 83

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1943 .. 18·6

					<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Still-births	..	..	..	..	5	..	3 .. 2
Deaths	..	..	..	..	108	..	55 .. 53
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..				..	..	31
Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population	..				..	..	13·0

There were no deaths from puerperal or maternal causes.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	32
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..			33
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	8
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	1

There were no deaths from Whooping Cough or Diarrhæa (under 2 years of age).

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

							<i>Total.</i>
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	165
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
							—
							233
							—



## TUBERCULOSIS.

*New Cases and Mortality during 1943.*

<i>Age Periods.</i>				<i>New Cases.</i>				<i>Deaths.</i>			
				<i>Res- piratory.</i>		<i>Non-Res- piratory.</i>		<i>Res- piratory.</i>		<i>Non-Res- piratory.</i>	
<i>Years.</i>				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0-1	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	..	..	..	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	..	..	..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	..	..	..	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15-20	..	..	..	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
20-25	..	..	..	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35-45	..	..	..	3	1	—	—	—	2	1	—
45-55	..	..	..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	..		..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .. ..				7	3	7	3	2	2	1	—
				<hr/> 10 <hr/>		<hr/> 10 <hr/>		<hr/> 4 <hr/>		<hr/> 1 <hr/>	

## COUNCIL OFFICES,

ORRELL ROAD.

February, 1945.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Orrell Urban District  
Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Orrell for the year ending December 31st, 1943. Population (Census 1931) 6,949; estimated population 1943, 8,266.

**BIRTHS.**—The birth-rate for the year was 18·63, the highest since 1923, when the rate was 20·1; 1922, 21·3; 1921, 22·4; 1920, 25·1; 1942, 17·2. The mean average birth-rate for the past ten years was 15·83. The average birth-rate for the six years previous to 1914 was 27·8, and 1914-1918, 23·6. There were 154 live births, 71 males and 83 females, as compared with 146 in 1942. Four of these were illegitimate, 1942, 7. The number of still-births were the same as in 1942, 5. The births were in excess of the deaths by 46, 1942, 60. The mean average number of births over deaths for the past ten years was 34.

**DEATHS.**—The number of deaths registered from all causes was 108, 55 males and 53 females; 1942, 86; rate 13·06 per 1,000. There were 3 deaths from violent causes, one of which was a road traffic accident. Thirty-seven of the deaths occurred in institutions, 1942, 23. The deaths were distributed 66 in the East Ward, and 42 in the West Ward. The mean average death-rate for the past ten years was 11·91.

**INFANTILE MORTALITY.**—The death-rate per 1,000 live births was 32. This was the lowest rate since 1934 (25). The mean average for the past ten years was 66. The rate for the five yearly period 1914 to 1918 was 132. There were 5 infant deaths registered, 4 males and 1 female; 1942, 12; rate 32; 1942, 82. They occurred 3 in the East Ward and 2 in the West Ward. One child lived only 18 hours. Two were first born, and 3 second born. The causes of death were: 2 Premature Birth, 1 Congenital Defects, and 2 Pneumonia. The percentage of infant deaths to total deaths was 4·62; 1942, 11·76. In three cases the parents were sole occupants of the home. Two of the children died in institutions.



# INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.
England and Wales .. .. .	49	49	59	55	50
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	58	59	71	61	53
148 Smaller Towns (resident popula- tion 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) .. .. .	46	46	56	54	40
London Administrative County ..	58	60	68	50	48

# DEATHS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

	1943.	1942.	1941	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	<i>Mean.</i>
Under 1 year ..	5	12	12	10	12	7	9	9.5
1 and under 2..	1	1	2	1	1	—	2	1.1
2 to 5  years ..	—	—	1	3	1	1	1	1.0
5 to 15 years ..	2	—	2	2	3	—	2	1.5
15 to 25 years ..	—	3	5	2	1	—	5	2.2
25 to 45 years ..	11	8	5	11	13	11	8	9.5
45 to 65 years ..	31	22	19	31	14	25	33	25.0
65 years and upwards ..	58	56	40	57	63	38	55	52.4
	108	102	86	117	108	82	115	102.2

There were 8 deaths of people under 15 years of age, 1942, 13 ; over 60 years of age 51, 1942 ,64 ; between 70 and 80 years of age 27, 1942, 24 ; between 80 and 90 years of age 15, 1942, 15 ; and one reached the age of 90 years.

# INFANTILE MORTALITY FROM PREMATURE BIRTHS AND CONGENITAL DEFECTS.

	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	<i>England and Wales.</i> 1929.
Premature Births ..	40%	25%	41.6%	20%	41.6%	14.2%	18.63%
Congenital Defects ..	20%	33.3%	25%	30%	33.3%	33.3%	5.20%

## VARIOUS AGES AT WHICH INFANT DEATHS OCCURRED.

	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.
Under 1 week ..	1	5	7	2	7	3
„ 3 weeks ..	—	2	—	2	1	—
„ 1 month ..	1	7	7	4	8	3
1 to 3 months ..	2	—	2	3	2	2
3 to 6 months ..	2	3	2	2	1	—
6 to 9 months ..	—	2	1	1	1	1
9 to 12 months ..	—	—	—	—	—	1
	5	12	12	10	12	7

## AGES AT DEATH OF INFANTS ACCORDING TO THE POSITION OF THE CHILD IN THE FAMILY.

<i>Position of Child in the Family.</i>	<i>Weeks.</i>		<i>Months.</i>		
	1		1	3	4
First born ..	—	..	1	1	—
Second born ..	1	..	1	—	1

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.—There was one death registered from this group of diseases, *i.e.*, Measles.

## NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACTS.

<i>Disease.</i>	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.
Scarlet Fever ..	30	15	6	29	33	27
Whooping Cough .	21 (25)	19	33	12	8	—
Diphtheria ..	1	9	4	20	29	13
Erysipelas ..	4 (5)	2	2	1	3	4
Measles ..	165 (180)	28	33	199	—	—
Pneumonia ..	10	6	10	23	7	15
Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	1	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ..	1	—	1	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	—	—	—	—	—
	233	80	90	285	80	59

The figures in brackets are from official sources, but the other figures are the actual number of notifications received.

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS, 1912.

*Pulmonary Tuberculosis.*—The number of new cases reported was 10, 1942, 8. 7 males and 3 females. Three of these were not confirmed. They occurred 8 in the East Ward, and 2 in the West Ward. Seven of those cases received Sanatorium treatment. There were 4 deaths registered, 2 males and 2 females, rate 0·48 per 1,000, 1942, 0·23. The number of cases remaining on the register at the end of the year was 24, 16 males and 8 females; case incidence 2·903 per 1,000, 1942, 2·84.

*Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.*—Ten notifications were received, two of which were unconfirmed, and one removed out of the district. Their ages ranged from 1 to 71 years. They occurred 6 in the East Ward, and 4 in the West Ward, 7 males and 3 females. There was 1 death, registered rate 0·12 per 1,000, 1942, 0·0. There remained on the register at the end of the year 36 cases, 21 males and 15 females, case incidence 4·35, 1942, 4·02. The case incidence for all cases of Tuberculosis was 7·25, 1942, 6·86, death-rate 0·604.

*Respiratory Disseases* other than Pulmonary Tuberculosis caused 13 deaths, 1942, 14. Bronchitis 7, Pneumonia 6, death-rate 1·57 per 1,000, 1942, 1·65, percentage to total deaths 12·03. Ten notifications of Pneumonia were received, 7 males and 3 females. They occurred 3 in the East Ward, and 7 in the West Ward. Six of the cases were 5 years and under. The incidence of Pneumonia in Orrell was 1·209 per 1,000, England and Wales 1·34.

Age Groups of Infectious Notifiable Diseases were as follows :—

Age Groups.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Pneu- monia.	Ery- sipelas.	Whooping Cough.	Measles.
Under 12 months	.. —	.. —	.. 2	.. —	.. 2	.. 7
1-2 years	.. 1	.. —	.. —	.. —	.. 5	.. 10
2-3 „	.. 5	.. —	.. 1	.. —	.. 3	.. 24
3-4 „	.. 2	.. —	.. 2	.. —	.. 2	.. 22
4-5 „	.. 2	.. —	.. —	.. —	.. 3	.. 35
5-10 „	.. 17	.. 1	.. 1	.. —	.. 6	.. 65
10-15 „	.. 2	.. —	.. 1	.. —	.. —	.. —
15-20 „	.. —	.. —	.. —	.. —	.. —	.. 1
20-25 „	.. —	.. —	.. —	.. 1	.. —	.. —
25-35 „	.. 1	.. —	.. —	.. 2	.. —	.. —
35-45 „	.. —	.. —	.. 1	.. —	.. —	.. —
45-65 „	.. —	.. —	.. 1	.. 1	.. —	.. 1
65 and upwards	.. —	.. —	.. 1	.. —	.. —	.. —
	30	.. 1	.. 10	.. 4	.. 21	.. 165



They were distributed in the wards as follows:—

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>East Ward.</i>	<i>West Ward.</i>
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	22	8
Whooping Cough .. .. .	11	10
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	1
Erysipelas .. .. .	2	2
Measles .. .. .	110	55
Pneumonia .. .. .	3	7
Cerebro Spinal Fever .. .. .	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	—	1

*Scarlet Fever.*—There were 30 cases reported occurring, 22 in the East Ward and 8 in the West Ward, 1942, 15. Ten of the cases were under 5 years of age, and 17 5 to 10 years of age; case incidence 3·508 per 1,000, 1942, 1·77. England and Wales 3·01. Two of the cases received institutional treatment, and one case was of a service man on leave.

*Whooping Cough.*—There were 21 cases notified, 1942, 19, distributed 11 in the East Ward, and 10 in the West Ward, 9 males and 12 females. Their ages ranged from 5 months to 6 years, 6 of the cases being of school going age. In two different homes 2 inmates were affected; case incidence 2·54 per 1,000, 1942, 2·25. England and Wales 2·54.

*Diphtheria.*—There was 1 case notified, 1942, 9. It occurred in the West Ward, a male of 6 years of age. Bacteriological examinations were made in 9 cases; case incidence 0·12 per 1,000. England and Wales 0·88.

*Immunisation against Diphtheria.*—Age group 0–4 inclusive, 37 per cent. completed the course; age group 5–14 inclusive, 64 per cent. completed the course.

*Erysipelas.*—Four notifications were received, occurring 2 in each ward; case incidence 0·48 per 1,000, 1942, 0·23. England and Wales 0·31.

*Measles.*—Notifications from this infectious disease numbered 165. During the first quarter of the year 134 notifications were received, 59 in the month of February, 28 in the second quarter, and 3 in the third quarter. They occurred 110 in the East Ward, and 55 in the West Ward, 85 males and 80 females. Their ages ranged from 3 months to 64 years. 163 cases were under 10 years, and 8 under 1 year of age. In nine households 2 members in each were affected. There was 1 death registered, rate 0·12 per 1,000. England and Wales 0·02; case incidence 19·96 per 1,000. England and Wales 9·88.

*Cerebro Spinal Fever.*—One case was notified from the West Ward; case incidence 0·12 per 1,000. England and Wales 0·08.

*Ophthalmia Neonatorum.*—One case was notified; treated at home. Vision was unimpaired.

*Cancer and Malignant Diseases.*—There were 8 deaths registered, 1942, 12, 5 males and 3 females; rate 0·96 per 1,000, 1942, 1·42 percentage to total deaths 7·4, 1942, 11·76. They occurred 4 in either Ward. Their ages ranged from 49 to 81 years. Parts affected 1 stomach, 1 breast, and 6 other sites.

**HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.**—The township was well served by general and specialised hospitals. Infectious cases where isolation at the home was impracticable received institutional treatment. Thirty-nine per cent. of maternity cases occurred in institutions. Motor ambulance service was satisfactory.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—The service was continuous and of good quality. Scarcity was experienced at week-ends when the demand was greatest. The source was a reservoir at Bispham under contract with the Wigan Corporation. A new main was laid in Edge Hall Road. A new source has been found within the township, and the necessary preparations for supply are nearing completion.

**POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.**—No action taken.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**—The sewage was delivered by gravitation in underground earthenware pipes to the boundary, where it joined the Wigan Corporation main sewer, and was conveyed to Hoscarr for treatment. Periodical flushing was carried out.

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**—The water carriage system is the aim of the Council. A few isolated houses, and houses considered for demolition are still served by privy middens. There are 43 privy middens with 69 closets attached to these middens. Fresh water closets numbered 2,609. There were no conversions during the year.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING.**—Collection of refuse was carried out by motor, by day, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, by the Council's workmen. The refuse was deposited at the Council's tip. Collection of salvage was maintained throughout the year.

**SCHOOLS.**—Sanitary conditions were satisfactory. In the month of May Chicken Pox was prevalent in one school, and Influenzal colds in all the schools in November. There was no closure for infectious disease.



OFFENSIVE TRADES.—There were no premises employed in offensive trades, or rag flock manufactured or sold.

SHOPS ACTS, 1934.—The regulations were carried out satisfactorily.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.—There were 32 Workshops in the district, five of which used mechanical power. They were inspected periodically. No nuisances were found under the Public Health Acts.

HOUSING STATISTICS.—There were no new houses erected. The distribution of the population was 3·1 persons per house, and the density per acre was 5·1. The number of dwelling-houses examined for housing defects was 95, incurring 237 inspections. Apart from these 85 houses were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. In 12 of these the defects were remedied. Overcrowding occurred in isolated cases, due to cessation of building on account of the war, and newly married couples finding it impossible to procure new homes. It is estimated that 100 new houses would meet the shortage. The Council anticipate building 60 new houses after the war. The chief defects were defective roofs, down spouts, sanitary fittings, and blocked drains.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS REGULATIONS.—The dairies at the farms were clean, tidy and well looked after, although little used for storage of milk as delivery was immediate on production. The cowsheds or shippons mostly stone built, situated as outbuildings in the farm yards, structurally, were in good condition. Cubic air space, ventilation, and lighting, complied with the regulations. General cleanliness was good, but lime washing was tardy. The cattle, numbering 196, were healthy and habitually grazed, but lack of grooming in some was glossed over by the excuse of being short handed. 87 inspections were made. Samples of milk were submitted for examination, and were found to be free from Tubercle Bacillus. There were 17 dairy farms and 29 dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cow-keepers) all registered.

MEAT INSPECTION ACT.—The following quantities of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption: 30 lbs. of Corned Beef, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs. of Meat and Vegetable Ration, 6 lbs. of Corned Mutton,  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb. of Pork Luncheon Meat, 4 lbs. of Cheese, and 8 lbs. of Marmalade.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1943.

Blocked or Defective W.C's.    ..    ..    ..    ..	13
Insufficient and Defective Provision for House Refuse	9
Blocked and Defective Drains ..    ..    ..    ..	11
Defective Spouts    ∴    ..    ..    ..    ..	7
Unclean House    ..    ..    ..    ..    ..    ..	1
Houses Disinfected    ..    ..    ..    ..    ..	43
Sanitary Inspections (including Housing)    ..    ..	237
Number of Defects or Nuisances discovered ..    ..	95
Number of Defects or Nuisances abated    ..    ..	95

Requiring 80 informal, and 12 statutory notices.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

	1942.	1943.
No. of ashpits empties during the year    ..    ..	273	181
„ dustbins emptied during the year    ..    ..	73,863	69,075
„ loads removed during the year    ..    ..	1,238	1,194
„ privy closets in the district    ..    ..	69	69
„ privy ashpits in the district    ..    ..	43	43
„ dry ashpits in the district    ..    ..	6	6
„ dustbins in the district ..    ..    ..	2,557	2,557
„ fresh water-closets    ..    ..    ..	2,609	2,609

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

KENNETH FRASER,

Medical Officer of Health,











